

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a source node to transmit a data packet to a target node;

a plurality of intermediate nodes communicatively coupled in succession between the source node and the target node, each of the intermediate nodes to receive the data packet from either the source node or a previous intermediate node in succession, and transmit the data packet to either ~~the~~ a next intermediate node in succession or to the target node, each of the intermediate nodes and the source node having a programmable retry timer associated therewith, each retry timer programmed with retry time period after which the intermediate node or the source node will retransmit a ~~the~~ data packet if the intermediate node or the source node has not received an appropriate response to said data packet;

the source node and the intermediate nodes to employ a transaction control scheme wherein the retry timer of the source node is programmed with a relatively larger retry time period than any of the intermediate nodes and wherein intermediate nodes located relatively further in succession from the source node have their retry timers

programmed with a relatively smaller retry time periods than intermediate nodes located relatively closer in succession to the source node.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the retry time periods of each of the retry timers of said intermediate nodes are set by the data packet transmitted from the source node.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the source node is configured to attempt to retransmit the data packet relatively more times than any of the intermediate nodes, and wherein intermediate nodes located relatively further in succession from the source node are configured to attempt to retransmit the data packet relatively fewer times than intermediate nodes located relatively closer in succession to the source node.

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 23 wherein said intermediate nodes are repeater nodes configured to amplify signal strength of each received data packet.

27. (currently amended) A method comprising:
transmitting a data packet from a source node across a plurality of intermediate nodes to a target node, the plurality of intermediate nodes communicatively coupled in succession between the source node and the target node, each of the intermediate nodes to receive the data packet from either the source node or a previous intermediate node in succession, and transmit the data packet to either the a next intermediate

node in succession or to the target node, each of the intermediate nodes and the source node having a programmable retry timer associated therewith, each retry timer programmed with retry time period after which the intermediate node or the source node will retransmit a the data packet if the intermediate node or the source node has not received an appropriate response to said data packet;

implementing a transaction control scheme wherein the retry timer of the source node is programmed with a relatively larger retry time period than any of the intermediate nodes and wherein intermediate nodes located relatively further in succession from the source node have their retry timers programmed with a relatively smaller retry time periods than intermediate nodes located relatively closer in succession to the source node.

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 27 further comprising setting the retry time periods of each of the retry timers of said intermediate nodes by the data packet transmitted from the source node.

29. (previously presented) The system of claim 27 further comprising:

attempting to retransmit the data packet from the source node relatively more times than any of the intermediate nodes, and

attempting to retransmit the data packet from the intermediate nodes relatively further in succession from the source node relatively fewer times than intermediate nodes located relatively closer in succession to the source node.

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 27 wherein said intermediate nodes are repeater nodes configured to amplify signal strength of each received data packet.